Homeowners’ “Inside and Out” Wildfire Checklist

Interiors

1. Kitchen

☐ A fully charged fire extinguisher is kept in the kitchen.
☐ Electric and gas stoves are in good operating condition.
☐ Baking soda is kept handy to extinguish stove-top grease fires.
☐ Handles of pots and pans containing hot liquids are kept away from the front of the stove.
☐ Flammable curtains and towels are kept away from burners on the stove.
☐ Matches and lighters are stored out of the reach of children.
☐ Flammable liquids are properly stored in approved containers and away from ignition sources such as pilot lights.

2. Living Room

☐ A screen is installed on the fireplace.
☐ Fireplace and barbecue ashes are stored in a non-combustible container and disposed of only when cold.
☐ Fireplace chimneys and flues are cleaned at least once a year.

3. Hallway

☐ Smoke detectors are installed between living and sleeping areas.
☐ Smoke detectors are tested monthly and batteries replaced twice a year.
☐ All electrical outlets are designed to handle appliance loads.
☐ Child safety plugs (caps) are inserted on electrical outlets.
☐ Electrical cords that do not work properly, have loose connections or are frayed have been repaired or replaced.
4. **Bedroom**

☑️ Smoke detectors are installed in the bedrooms.
☑️ Electric blankets and other electric appliances are turned off or unplugged when not in use.
☑️ Residents do not smoke in bed.

5. **Bathroom**

☑️ Hot appliances such as curling irons and electric irons are disconnected when not in use and stored in a safe location until cool.
☑️ Flammable items such as towels are kept away from wall and floor heaters.

6. **Garage**

☑️ A fully charged fire extinguisher is mounted in the garage.
☑️ Shovel, hoe, rake, and buckets are readily available for use in a wildfire emergency.
☑️ A solid door with self-closing hinges is installed between living areas and the garage.
☑️ A metal container is available for disposing of oily rags.
☑️ All combustibles are stored away from ignition sources such as water heaters.
☑️ All electrical tools and appliances are disconnected when not in use.
☑️ Hot tools such as glue guns and soldering irons are allowed to cool before storing.

7. **Disaster Preparedness**

☑️ A three-day supply of food is available that does not require refrigeration and generally does not need cooking.
☑️ A three-day supply of drinking water is available.
☑️ A portable radio, flashlight, emergency cooking equipment, portable lanterns and batteries are kept handy.
☑️ A First Aid kit is readily available and fully stocked.
☑️ A list of valuables has been made and valuables are stored together for easy access and removal.
☑️ A portable generator is kept on hand to supply power to lights and cooking appliances.
☑️ A contingency plan has been made to enable family members to contact each other.
☑️ All family members are trained and ready to protect themselves with STOP, DROP AND ROLL in the event their clothing catches on fire.
Exterior

1. Roof
☐ Tree branches touching or overhanging the roof have been removed.
☐ Tree branches within 10 feet of the chimney have been removed.
☐ All dead leaves and needles have been cleaned from the roof and gutters.
☐ Roof meets the Uniform Building Code fire resistance classification of “Class B” or better.
☐ Chimney outlet and stovepipe covered with a nonflammable screen of 1/2 inch or smaller mesh.

2. Construction
☐ Home placement is away from ridge tops, canyons and areas between high points on a ridge.
☐ Home placement is at least 30 feet from the property line.
☐ House is constructed with fire resistive building materials.
☐ Underside of balconies and above ground decks are enclosed with fire resistive materials.
☐ Size and number of windows that face large areas of vegetation are limited.
☐ Window are dual-paned or triple-paned glass construction.

3. Landscape
☐ A “defensible space” has been created by modifying flammable vegetation to a distance of at least 75 feet around all structures.
☐ On steep slopes, flammable vegetation has been modified out to a distance of 100 feet or more.
☐ Trees and shrubs are at least 10 feet apart.
☐ Branches of remaining trees are pruned 8-10 feet above ground fuel.
☐ Landscape plants are resistive to fire and burning.
☐ The number of trees in heavily wooded areas is reduced by thinning.
☐ All plants are maintained regularly by removing dead branches, leaves and needles.
4. Yard

- Woodpiles are stacked at least 30 feet from all structures and flammable vegetation is cleared away within 10 feet of woodpiles.
- LPG tanks (butane and propane) are located at least 30 feet from any structure, on the same elevation as the home, and surrounded with 10 feet of clearance.
- All construction materials and debris are removed from the yard.
- You have checked to see if open burning is allowed in your area; if so, you have obtained a burning permit.

5. Emergency Water Supply

- An emergency water supply is established and maintained that meets fire department standards.
- All emergency water sources are clearly marked and visible.
- Firefighter access is readily available to your closest emergency water source.
- If you have a water well, an emergency generator is available to operate the pump in the event of a power failure.

6. Access

- At least two exit routes from your neighborhood are identified.
- Roads allow two-way traffic.
- Road width, grade and curves are designed to allow access for large emergency vehicles.
- Driveways are constructed to allow large emergency equipment to reach your house.
- Bridges are designed to carry heavy emergency vehicles, including bulldozers carried on large trucks.
- Road signs are clearly posted to show traffic restrictions such as dead-end roads, and weight and height limitations.
- Dead-end roads and long driveways have turnaround areas wide enough for emergency vehicles.
- Turnouts are constructed along one-way roads.
- Flammable vegetation is cleared at least 10 feet from roads and five feet from driveways.
- Overhanging tree branches above roads and driveways are removed.
- Fire barriers, such as greenbelts, parks, golf courses and athletic fields are in place.
- Streets are named or numbered, and signs are visibly posted at each street intersection.
- House address is readily visible and readable at the beginning of the driveway, or on the house if easily visible from the road.

7. Outside

- An emergency outside meeting place has been designated.
- Emergency exit drills are practiced regularly.
- Electric service lines, fuse boxes and circuit breaker panels are installed and maintained as prescribed by code.

This checksheet is based on and draws heavily from a publication produced by the Colorado State Forest Service. FIREWISE is a multi-agency program that encourages the development of defensible space and the prevention of catastrophic wildfire.

**Arizona FIREWISE Communities Cooperators**


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